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**For more information contact:  
Rose E. Garland, (314) 539-6600, Ext. 232**

## **Donna Lynn Stewart of D'Zign Ink Honored at Grace Hill Women's Business Center Wall of Fame Ceremony**

**ST. LOUIS** - Donna Stewart is the founder and owner of D'Zign Ink Desktop Publishing and Clerical Services. D'Zign Ink is a Christian home-based business that provides high quality, professional on-call services seven days a week in the areas of desktop publishing, clerical and mobile notary service.

"During the summer of 2002, I was discussing with my sister my desire to start my own business," Stewart said. "She referred me to an advertisement in the *St. Louis American* about the Grace Hill Women's Business Center. The ad listed the services offered to women who were interested in starting their own businesses. I called the number and spoke to [former director] Lynette Watson."

"My initial meeting with Mrs. Watson was very positive and encouraging! She was impressed that I came prepared with a draft business plan. She was able to point out to me the strengths and weaknesses of my plan. So, after several weeks of one-on-one working sessions, we took my second proposal and evaluated it against a list of criteria used by financial institutions and bankers for perspective entrepreneurs seeking funding for business ventures. As a result, with her help, we developed a well-defined business plan and financial proposal," she said.

Donna Stewart was previously employed by the St. Louis Public Schools for 25 years where she was administrative assistant to the deputy superintendent. She brings to her company her own experience in clerical and administrative support, creative design, creative writing and leadership. D'Zign Ink serves personal clients, government agencies, non-profit organizations, churches, funeral homes, colleges or any small business that need these services. In addition to serving the professional community, D'Zign Ink has hundreds of personal clients. She also designs graduation announcements, wedding invitations, family reunion correspondence, flyers and event programs, to name a few.

Stewart has a BS in business management from the University of Missouri - St. Louis. She is married and the mother of five. "I credit God and give Him praise for my ability to be creative in designing various types of documents," she said. "I also thank my husband, parents, family and church family for their continued support and encouragement."

Stewart's immediate plan is to build her own office building adjacent to her home as the business is expanding and has outgrown its current area. Her future goal is to hire additional staff to expand into the medical and legal fields of clerical and office support. She returned to the WBC to take a workshop on how to get government contracts. Stewart also gives back to the community--once a week, she volunteers for a non-profit organization.

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